THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government is not aware of any Convention held in Delhi recommending increase of age in the Juvenile Justice Act. However, the Government has already replaced the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 by a new Act namely, The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000. This Act has been enforced in the country except the State of Jammu & Kashmir with effect from 1st April, 2001. As per the new Act uniform age of 18 years has been prescribed for both boys and girls under the Juvenile Justice Act, which was earlier 16 years for boys and 18 years for girls. The Central Government is implementing a scheme called "A programme for Juvenile Justice", under which the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations are assisted on a 50:50 basis for establishing and running of Homes under the Juvenile Justice Act. The Homes are being administered by the State Governments and UT Administrations. They are required to send proposals for availing the grants under this scheme. Whenever, proposals are received from State Governments/ UT Administrations for establishment of new Homes or expansion of exising ones, the grants are released by the Central Government to them for the purpose as per norms.

Implementation of Schemes for benefit of SCs and Nav-Buddhas

1629. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 10 per cent of the outlay has been consumed by the state Governments out of plan allocation made for the schemes for the benefit of SCs and Nav-Buddhas;

(b) if so, the details of the plan allocation made by Government on different schemes and actual money spent by the State Governments during the last financial year;

(c) the reasons for the delay in implementation of schemes and utilisation of funds; and

(d) the steps proposed for proper utilisation of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) Under the strategy of Special Component Plan (SCP) evolved by the Planning Commission, the State Governments are required to make SCP by earmarking a percentage of Plan fund in proportion to the percentage of SC population in the State. Fund provided under SCP is utilized on implementation of different schemes for welfare of the notified SC communities of the State including the Nav-Buddhas. Details on scheme-wise amount allocated and utilized by the State Government under the SCP is maintained by the State Government concerned.

Implementation of SCP and overfall flow of fund to SCP is looked into by the Central Government while earmarking 25% of the Special Central Assistance, which is provided as an additive to the SCP. Followings steps are being taken by the Central Government for ensuring implementation of SCP by the State Government in a proper manner:—

(i) Implementation of SCP by the State Government is monitored on regular basis.

(ii) State Governments have been requested for making special projects by dovetailing subsidy out of SCA with loan under NSFDC scheme.

Misuse of Adoption Homes

1630. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the large scale misuse of adoption homes in Andhra Pradesh recently, her Ministry has taken a decision to unearth such agencies run by voluntary agencies in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether any directive in this regard has been issued to the State Governments;

(c) whether this question has been discussed with the State Home Minister; and

(d) if so, the concrete measures being considered by Government to check illegal adoption homes in the country?